Guidelines for International Rotations in Preventive Medicine
Review Committee for Preventive Medicine

The Review Committee recognizes that international rotations offer valuable enrichment to resident education; however all required rotations in preventive medicine must be completed in the United States. International clinical and/or research electives should be brief rotations tailored to an individual resident, or standardized elective educational experiences developed by the program, but not required for completion of the residency.

International rotations should not interfere with a resident's ability to attain all required preventive medicine outcomes. International rotations must be electives offered to residents in good standing in the program, and planned toward the end of a resident's educational program, after the resident has attained competence in all required areas of preventive medicine.

A program director who wishes to proceed with developing an international elective educational experience should complete the following steps:

1. Consult with the institution's Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) and designated institutional official (DIO) to ensure there is support for such an experience. The institution's legal department may also need to be consulted so that issues of liability and insurance are discussed and clarified.

2. Define the goals and objectives for the educational experience and the methods by which the resident(s) will be evaluated.

3. Develop a formal Program Letter of Agreement (PLA) between the program director and the site director at the international site. The PLA must include the following:

   - Identification of faculty member(s) who will assume both educational and supervisory responsibilities for the resident(s).The resident(s) must be supervised on-site by at least one qualified physician for the duration of the elective rotation. This individual must be American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM)-certified or have significant experience and education documented, such that it is acceptable to both the home institution and the Review Committee. The site director may also serve as the supervising physician faculty member.

   - Faculty member(s)' responsibilities for teaching, supervision, and formal evaluation of the resident(s).

   - The duration and content (educational objectives) of the educational experience.

   - Policies and procedures that will govern resident education during the assignment.

   - Evidence of local authority approval in the country where the international elective rotation will take place.

Review Committee approval is required for any international rotation that is longer than two months during a two-year program. Request approval from the Review Committee by providing a written description of the rotation, including:

    a. Program name and number

    b. Name and PGY level of the resident(s), or level of education that will be considered for the educational experience

    c. Name, location, and dates of the international site experience

    d. Description of supervision that will be provided

    e. CVs of supervising faculty member(s)

    f. Description of structured learning activities

    g. Goals and objectives for the educational experience

    h. Plan for resident performance assessment and resident assessment of the experience

    i. Plan for how the resident(s) and the program will measure outcomes relative to the experience

    j. Letter of support from the DIO and the completed, signed PLA

The Review Committee can grant expedited approval for international rotations if specifically requested.

Programs should not facilitate or approve international elective rotations to countries or areas in countries that have US State Department travel advisories Level 3: Reconsider Travel or Level 4: Do Not Travel at the time of Review Committee notification. It is the responsibility of the applying program to ensure resident safety, including responsibility for confirming that a US State Department travel advisory Level 3 or 4 is not in effect for the site at the time of the rotation.